

Bill No. SB 806

Barcode 274182

602-2218-06

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Education  
Appropriations

1                               A bill to be entitled

2               An act relating to the Florida Virtual School;

3               amending s. 1002.37, F.S.; establishing the

4               Students Earning Additional Recovery Credits

5               and Honors (SEARCH) Program to provide

6               opportunities for students to recover credits

7               needed for graduation or to earn honors course

8               credit or other course credit; providing for

9               payment for additional full-time equivalent

10              student credit to the extent funded in the

11              General Appropriations Act; providing

12              eligibility requirements for participation by a

13              school district operating a virtual school that

14              is an approved franchise of the Florida Virtual

15              School; providing for the use of funds;

16              limiting the level of participation; providing

17              an effective date.

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19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21               Section 1. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section

22               1002.37, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6),

23               (7), and (8), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added

24               to that section, to read:

25               1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.--

26               (5)(a) There is established the Students Earning

27               Additional Recovery Credits and Honors (SEARCH) Program to

28               provide additional opportunities for students to recover

29               credits needed for graduation or to earn honors course credit

30               or other course credit.

31               (b) To the extent funded in the General Appropriations

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Act, the SEARCH Program shall pay for full-time equivalent student credit in addition to credit funded by the Florida Education Finance Program under subsections (3) and (4).

(c) School districts operating a virtual school that is an approved franchise of the Florida Virtual School as described in subsection (4) and that operated the franchise for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 fiscal years shall be eligible in the 2006-2007 fiscal year and thereafter to participate in the SEARCH Program.

(d) SEARCH Program funds earned by students enrolled in Florida Virtual School franchises as described in subsection (4) may be used only to pay for credits earned in excess of the 25 hours per week funded by the Florida Education Finance Program to:

1. Replace credits needed for graduation;
2. Earn credits in an honors level course or other course that would not be otherwise available to the student;
3. Serve students scoring at Level 1 or Level 2 on any subject tested on the FCAT;
4. Serve homebound students; or
5. Serve students currently assigned to a facility of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

(e) A student may not earn funding for more than two credits in the SEARCH Program.

(f) A school district's portion of the SEARCH Program funds may not exceed the district's portion of the total unweighted full-time equivalent students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in the participating school districts.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.